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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/086,366	03/04/2002	Kazuyuki Matsuda	04329.2752	2705

7590 01/19/2005

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow,  
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Washington, DC 20005-3315

EXAMINER

AMSBURY, WAYNE P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2161

DATE MAILED: 01/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/086,366

Applicant(s)

MATSUDA ET AL.

Examiner

Wayne Amsbury

Art Unit

2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

CLAIMS 1-10 AND 12-15 ARE PENDING

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Applicant's arguments filed 11/22/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Olsen fails to anticipate or suggest at least the step of "acquiring the plurality of information items from the storage unit, classifying information contained in the acquired plurality of information items with reference to the designated attribute and displaying the classified information on a screen of a display unit," as recited in claim 1" [Response page 7]. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Attention is drawn to COL 3 lines 12-21 as well as passages previously cited. Olsen is directed to **dynamically** defining, modifying, and integrating hierarchical relationships into a database. This process specifies relationships that are then integrated into the database. Such relationships are an aspect of DB design that determines a hierarchical classification of the DB data. Modification or specification of relationships requires retrieval of information, determining their (re-) classification, and then integrating them into the DB. Clearly this is done with respect to a designated attribute that corresponds to a relationship involved. Stated differently, relationships are attributes of DBs.

**3. Claims 1-10 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Olson et al (Olsen), US 5,566,333, 15 October 1996.**

**This maintains the rejection of the previous action, repeated below:**

Olsen is directed to management of tasks within an enterprise [COL 1 lines 10-15].

As to **claims 1-2**, the initial modeling phase of management at least in Olsen involves a variety of information items associated with a plurality of jobs [COL 2 line 62 to COL 3 line 11 and elsewhere].

Users specify parameters, subsets of tasks, standards of job performance, conditions, aids, administrative elements, and the like [COL 3 lines 27-35; COL 4 lines 7-9, and elsewhere], all of which corresponds to a user designating an attribute for classifying information. The classified information is displayed to the user [COL 4 lines 28-34; tables in appendices F-L, and elsewhere].

As to **claim 3**, the tables of the appendices are clearly in list form, and Olsen sets forth the tree structure of the information being managed at COL 6 line 66 and after].

As to **claims 4-5**, the appendices of Olsen provide a variety of examples of task names, multiple attributes, and contents of the information records associated with them.

As to **claims 6-7**, the system units of Olsen, (hardware and software), are depicted in FIG 1 and described at COL 5 line 43 and after and addressed in the citations above.

The elements of **claims 8-10 and 12-15** are rejected in the analysis above and these claims are rejected on that basis.

**4. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wayne Amsbury whose telephone number is 571-272-4015. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6-18:30 **FIRST WEEK**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2161

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

WPA

  
WAYNE AMSBURY  
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER